(c) Manpower required for strategic and specialized areas such as Cyber Security, Open Source Solutions, Digital Signatures, Network Operations and control etc. will be recruited by National Informatics Centre (NIC). The jobs of software coding, handholding, data entry, scanning and indexing, rollout, etc. are being outsourced.

**Computerisation of post offices**

3114. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to computerisation of all postal activites and connectivity of post offices across the country has been undertaken by Government;

(b) if so, the time-frame by when the work would be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The work relating to computerization and connectivity of post offices across the country has been initiated by the Department of Posts.

(b) The work relating to computerization and connectivity of all Head Post Offices and large Sub Post Offices across the country is expected to be completed by the end of the current Tenth Five Year Plan period.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Outstanding amount due to public sectors**

3115. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge amount due to public sector telephone companies from various agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Total outstanding dues to Bharat